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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 24/01/2008	Accident number: 505
Accident time: 10:30	Accident Date: 14/02/2006
Where it occurred: MF# AF/0308/01648/092, New Bakhshi Khail Village. Bagram District of Parwan Province	Country: Afghanistan
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Management/control inadequacy (?)
Class: Missed-mine accident	Date of main report: 28/03/2006
ID original source: OPS 04/05-01	Name of source: UNMACA
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: YM-1 AP blast	Ground condition: agricultural (abandoned) building rubble
Date record created:	Date last modified: 24/01/2008
No of victims: 0	No of documents: 2

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system: WGS 84	Coordinates fixed by: GPS
Map east: E= 06932869	Map north: N= 3496564
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

mine/device found in "cleared" area (?)
use of shovel (?)
protective equipment not worn (?)
non injurious accident (?)

Accident report

The report of this accident was made available in August 2007 as a PDF file. Its conversion to a text file for editing means that some of the formatting has been lost. The substance of the report is reproduced below, edited for anonymity. The original PDF file is held on record. Text in [] is editorial.

Cover letter

To: Chief of Operations, UNMACA

From: A/Area Manager UNAMAC Kabul

Date: March 8, 2006

Subject: Missed Mine Investigation Report

Attached please find the investigation report along with its supporting documents and photos of the missed mine found on 14 Feb 06 by M. Ismael resident of Bakhshi Khil Saighani Village, Bagram district within the cleared area of MF 092.

The investigation team concluded that the clearance team has not excavated/removed extra soil and checked the MF from its original undisturbed ground level, while it was clearly mentioned in the related task order.

ATC MCT is assigned to re-check an area of 600 sqm adjacent to the surrounding walls of the above-mentioned house from the original land surface.

The findings and recommendations are mentioned in the report, forwarded for your info and further action.

Investigation Report of Mine/UXO Accident/Incident within the ground of Demining

Accusatory details if mine is missed: MF.No. AF/0308/01648/092.

Clearance method: Manual/ MDD, task completed 25/10/2004.

Accident occurred 14.02.2006 at 10:30.

Accident/incident-happened on I the mine is found in the yard of a house.

Accident/Incident Location: WGS 84, N= 3496564: E= 06932869: GPS

Device caused the incident/accident: YM-1 AP blast mine

The mine had not blasted and the local resident found it during excavation in his house yard. While the house owner was excavating land by shovel, the AP mine was discovered.

Device was discovered in area classified as: Completely cleared task.

Detail of the area: The Open area was cleared by MDC while, the house surrounding and inside area had been cleared by ATC MCT. The missed mine area belongs to ATC-MCT- 09.

Date of completion and handover: 27.10.2004

Detector type/depth of detection: Manual and by Dog 15 Cm

In the specific area where the mine was found MDD has not been used.

No and result of QA during operation in mentioned task: 2, Satisfactory.

History of the Minefield:

The minefield AF/0308/01648/092 located in New Bakhshi Khil village, Bagram district. This area was front line and fighting area between the then Mujahideen and Taliban. After the withdrawal of Taliban, UNHCR wanted to resettle local people in this area. So UNHCR requested AMAC to clear this area from UXO hazard and mine. After completion of the area clearance most of the people returned and resettled in this area. ATC MCT-09 and MDC MDG-18 have cleared the MF 092 during 21/09/2004 to 25/10/2004. ATC MCT-09 cleared the house in which the mine has been discovered, under supervision of team leader [Name removed].

Description of the incident:

There is only one house located in the Task No. 092 the owner of the house is Mr. Abdul Ahmad who has emigrated to Iran. For the time being his nephew [Name removed] is living in the house. On 14.02.06, while he was shoveling the house plats for planting vegetable, discovered an YM1 mine. The coordinate of the mine location is N=3496564 and E=06932869. Location of the mine from entrance gate of the house is 295 degree/22 meters. Depth of the mine from original surface of the ground was about 6 cm while about 15 cm extra soil on the original surface had had already been removed by the inhabitants of the house. As soon as [Name removed] discovered the mine [he] immediately reported the AMAC QMIT-12 that was conducting QC of task No AF/0308/01648/104 located near task No. 092. The QMIT team leader, after taking photo of the mine and its location, has destroyed the mine by the help of [Name removed] Assist team leader of ATC MCT.No.06 who was working in task No.106 of this area at the same day.

Conclusions

1. As the house is a ruined house, the presence of the extra soil on the surface of the ground was visible and it seemed that those soils were not excavated, removed and checked properly and in accordance with the requirements of the SOP and task order.
2. As the type of the discovered missed mine is YM-1 which contains minimum metal, there is the possibility of other similar type mines in the above-mentioned site.
3. According to the observation of the investigation team the inner side of the house-surrounding walls with five meters width seemed as un-checked. The original undisturbed ground surface has not been considered during the clearance operation. Although it was clearly mentioned in task order that the task should be cleared/checked to the depth of 13 cm from the original undisturbed ground level. The discovered mine was also, located in this 5-meter width.
4. Taken the said reasons in to account, the discovered mine is considered missed mine.

Recommendations

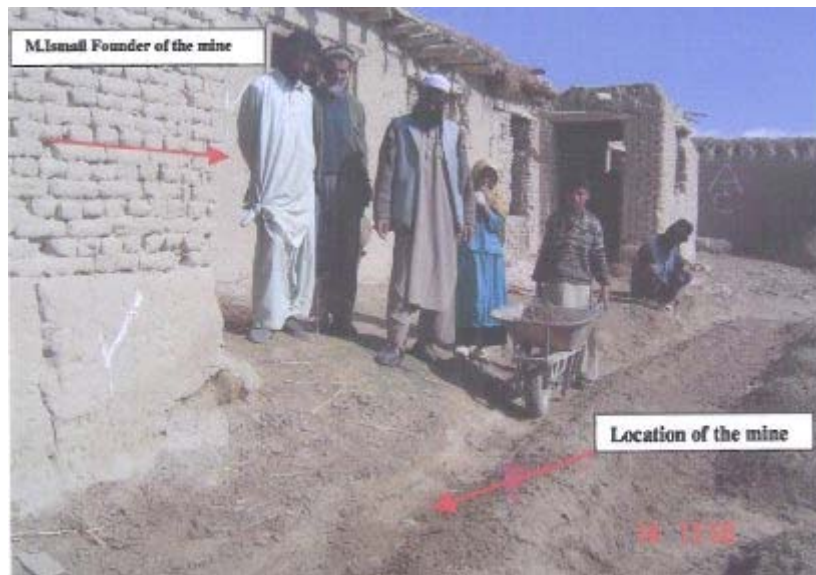
1. It is recommended that the inner side of the house walls with five meters width should be rechecked with the depth of 13 Cm from original undisturbed ground surface.
2. The clearance teams should consider the depth of 13 Cm from the original surface of the ground not from the top of the extra soils.
3. Prior to handing over of the task, the clearance team should collect all the red marks and other signs of the cleared area and mark the cleared area by the white paint properly till the cleared area and unclear area be differentiated easily. We suggest that the area in which the house owner is not sure is estimated about 600 m2 to be rechecked and cleared with 13 cm depth from original surface level of the ground.

Attachments: [Held on file]

THE MINE



THE PLACE WHERE THE MISSED MINE WAS FOUND



Task Data sheet 2004

Description of the task

Clearance of MF No. AF/0308/01648/092 located in Bakhshi Khil village of Bagram by a manual team to the standard depth of 15 cm from the actual ground surface. 30 cm for support of MDU. ATC is to assign a section from their manual team working in Bagram to clear the houses inside the minefield with two metres area around the outer sides of walls and clear ditches not suitable for MDG with one meters surround. The remaining open area will be cleared by MDG.

Task Description

What happened so far? The clearance was requested by UNHCR for returning of refugees in that village, assessment and technical survey was done by MCPA and the area is now ready for clearance.

What will happen in the near future? Refugees will return back to this village once the area is cleared and clearance certificate is provided.

Follow-up letter

File: OPS 04/05-01

Date: March 28, 2006

To: See distribution List

From: Chief of Operations/Deputy Program Manager MAPA/UNMACA, Kabul

Subject: FOLLOW UP ACTION ON MISSED MINE DISCOVERED IN BAGRAM DISTRICT OF PARWAN PROVINCE; MF# AF/0308/01648/092

Reference: ATC Missed Mine incident investigation report dated February 27, 2006, File: 117/06 of UNAMAC Kabul.

The missed mine discovered in a cleared MF No: AF/0308101648/092 located in New Bakhshi Khail village, Bagram district of Parwan province.

This minefield was contaminated with both A/P mines in houses and A/T in open area, the house had been cleared by [National demining agency] (MCT-09) and the open area by [Specialist explosive detecting dog group].

The mine was found in a house covered in above mentioned MF, while the owner was digging the yard for sowing vegetables.

According to the investigation report, the house was ruined and the presence of extra soil on the ground surface of inner side of surrounding walls were visible which had not been excavated, removed and checked properly and in accordance with the requirements of the SOP and task order, as the original ground surface had not been considered during the clearance operation. As the type of discovered missed mine is YM1 (minimum metal mine), therefore, there is possibility of more mines of the same type in mentioned area.

Recommendations

1. The inner side of the house wall with the 5m width should be rechecked and the depth of 13cm should be considered from the original ground surface as was mentioned in task order.
2. The task should be properly marked as cleared, red marks to be removed prior to the handing over.
3. Refresher course to be conducted to the mentioned manual clearance team.
4. Disciplinary action to be taken against the team command group.

The ATC should forward the feed back to this office no later than 15th April 2006.

Distribution List:

With attachment: Area Managers (AMACs 5) Ops Assistant, AMAC Gardez Director, ATC

Less Attachment: [All demining groups working in-country.]

STATEMENTS

Statement and Witness Report 1: houseowner

Date: 22-02-006

Q1-Do you have information about an YM1 mine that was found in [Name removed] house on 14102/06?

Q2-Can you say about depth of the mine from the original surface of the ground?

Q3-When you found the mine what you did with it?

Q4-Would you please say about possibility of existence other mines in this cleared area?

Q5-Can you imagine that the mine has been planted after clearance as a result of hostility and political aspect?

Answers:

A1-In the last year, the house of Mohammad Omar was cleared and handed over to us we cultivated some part of the house yard last year and wanted to include the remaining part for cultivation in the current year, during work the mine was discovered.

A2- Depth of the mine from original surface of the ground was 5 to 7 cm.

A3-As soon as we found the mine we informed the demining team working in surrounding through one of the [Name removed], a noble of the village.

A4-From clearance of that part of the house yard that we have cultivated we are confident, but from the remaining part we have not confidence.

A5-[Name removed] the house owner who is in Iran and I that living in the house do not have hostility with any one, also the walls and gate of the house is intact and always we keep it locked.

Statement and Witness Report 2: Assistant team leader of ATC MCT-06

Date: 22-02-006

Q1-Would you please state your information about YM1 mine which was found by [Name removed] in his house located in MF.No AF/0308/01648/092 in new Bakhshi Khail area of Bagram district Parwan province?

A1- To answer your question I would like to add our MCT team No.06 was busy with clearance of task No. AF/0308/01648/106. [Name removed] team leader of QMIT team No.12 contacted us by VHF and told us to take one deminer with charge to that location. He added a mine has been found in a house and we should destroy it. [Name removed] deminer and I prepared the charge and went to that location. We destroyed the above mentioned mine. While we destroyed the mine [Name removed] khan took pictures of that mine.

Q2- Could you please tell us how much was the depth of the above mentioned mine?

A2- While we reached the location the mine was dislocated by the house owner. He had removed the mine from its place by his shovel and put it down and the soil on the mine was also removed. Therefore, I cannot say anything about the depth of the above mentioned mine.

Q3- What is your opinion about the safety of the remaining land inside of the house?

A3- As you better know YM1 mine has very little metal. It is possible that the level of the soil was more and the mine has been missed. From the yard of the house it seems there are much fragments on the surface of the ground. Mostly the soil levels in the houses are very high and the deminers should excavate the entire extra soil of the area or they should decrease the level of the extra soil that the detector could detect the mine. In my opinion usually we must find the original surface of the ground and then give the assurance from the original surface of the ground.

Analysis

The primary cause of this incident is listed as a "Field control inadequacy" because the field controllers did not ensure that the land was cleared to the depth identified as necessary in the survey.

The secondary cause is listed as a "Management control inadequacy" because the national authority carried out QA on the task without noting the error and correcting the clearance agency.

The National Authority investigated and corrected the error efficiently and professionally.